Volume 20, Edition 5 May 2016

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

FRANKLY SPEAKING

May is here, but the bands are gone. We've had so many great expeditions lately, and now it's gonna be quiet for a while until the next rare pops out.

This month's meeting program, I'll have a video recently released from the Juan Fernandez Island expedition XR0ZR.

Until then, keep your amps tuned and your aerials resonant.

—Frank KG6N

NEXT MEETING
Wed, May 18, 2016, 7:30pm
City of Sonoma EOC

MINUTES, April 20, 2016

Called to order at 7:33 PM by our inspirational president KG6N

KD6FIL (Dave), KG6N (Frank), WD6BOR (Darrel), W1EJ (Ed), N6TVN (Carl), KF6FZM (Dick), KA2QQO (Declan), KA5WSS (Robert), N7PIB (San), K6KLL (Alan), K6UUW (Jim), KG6QNT (Eileen), WB6TMH (Mike), KV6X (Dan).

Welcome from the President.

Minutes: Minutes approved as written. Scored one again!

Officer Announcements

President: KG6N — NPOTA was a blast. When you can get someone to spot you on the internet, the pile up builds quickly. Iran was on the air and Frank worked number 307! Next up is North Korea.

Treasurer: KG6QNT — we have $4,287.17 in the bank and picked up some more dues today.

Secretary: KD6FIL— Need to submit a letter to the City of Sonoma requesting a free day for use of the Vets Building. It was decided to have the Hamfest on April 29 in 2017.

Radio Officer did not have any updates.

Old business:

Hamfest on April 30.We need workers! Please sign up for jobs. NJ6E made a handout for people who want to sell items on the club swap table. Items need to be labeled and a form filled out giving the asking and the take price.

Breakfast shift starts at 7 AM. Darrel is going to call members who have not signed up to help. Darrel received the information packet from the ARRL. Dave needs to call the Mike at the Vet's building to see if we can get into the building to load the refrigerator.

Dave also needs to do an inventory of existing items in the cabinet. We are looking for a second shift in the kitchen.

New Business:

N6P Point Reyes Lighthouse activation. The call sign has been reserved by N6KM..

Field Day is June 25 and 26 and will be held at the Sonoma Skypark.

Cal QSO Party Expedition. KG6N was asking if anyone was interested in joining him for an expedition for the Cal QSO Party on October 1 and 2.

The Sonoma Skypark Family Fun Day is June 11 from 11 to 4. Hoping to get VOMARC to set up a demonstration station.

WD6BOR (Darrel) was the lucky recipient of the mystery box.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05 PM.

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

RFinder — The Worldwide Repeater Directory Now Lets Users File Jamming Reports

RFinder, the creator of a web and app-based directory of Amateur Radio repeaters worldwide, now includes the ability to report radio jamming anywhere. This feature is already available in *RFinder*'s Android app and should be available for iOS devices by the time of Dayton Hamvention®. Those without a device or subscription can file reports online. Individuals or entities responsible for coordinating anti-jamming activities can also request access to view jamming reports for their area.

"Repeater jamming is a problem worldwide, [and] we've created a way of organizing anti-jamming activities worldwide," says Bob Greenberg, W2CYK, creator of *RFinder*. "We are evaluating some automated monitoring technology to integrate in the near future. This new feature just extends *RFinder*'s social features even further."

RFinder includes more than 60,000 repeaters in some 170 countries around the globe. *RFinder* is integrated directly with *EchoLink* on both Android and iPhone and provides the ability to share repeater check-ins on Facebook, Twitter, and APRS. *RFinder* is integrated with RT Systems and CHIRP radio programmers and has a routing feature, where users can find repeaters worldwide over a given route.
Video demos of *RFinder* features are available on YouTube.

(From May 5 ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

FCC Invites Comments on Petition to Eliminate 15 dB Gain Limit on Amateur Amplifiers

The FCC has put on public notice and invited comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* (RM-11767), filed on behalf of an amateur amplifier distributor, which seeks to revise the Amateur Service rules regarding maximum permissible amplifier gain. Expert Linears America LLC of Magnolia, Texas, which distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy, wants the FCC to eliminate the 15 dB gain limitation on amateur amplifiers that's spelled out in §97.317(a)(2). Expert asserts that there should be no gain limitation at all on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.

"There is no technical or regulatory reason [that] an amplifier capable of being driven to full legal output by even a fraction of a watt should not be available to Amateur Radio operators in the United States," Expert said in its *Petition*.

Expert maintains that the 15 dB gain limitation is an unneeded holdover from the days when amplifiers were less efficient and the FCC was attempting to rein in the use of Amateur Service amplifiers by Citizens Band operators. While the FCC proposed in its 2004 *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order* in WT Docket 04-140 to delete the requirement that amplifiers be designed to use a *minimum* of 50 W of drive power and did so, it did not further discuss the 15 dB amplification limit in the subsequent *Report and Order* in the docket. (From April 28 ARRL Newsletter)

—Submitted by Jim K6UUW

RENO Ham Swap

Rescheduled!

June 11, 2016 - Boomtown Casino Hotel, Reno

2100 Garson Rd, Exit #4 - Interstate 80

Swap Setup 6:00AM
$10.00 Per Space
Open To Public 6:30AM

Free to browse and buy
Amateur Radio Exams 9:00AM

$15.00 Exam Fee

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 20 EDITION 1

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Frank Wiebusch KG6N — President

Scott Wellington KJ6QIQ —Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator, Training Officer, President Emeritus

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmeistress, Editor

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the City of Sonoma Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: **http://www.vomarc.org/**

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of each month at Black Bear Restaurant, 201 W Napa St, #34 (Marketplace Shopping Center), Sonoma. The fun starts at 08:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

–or–

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

2016 ACS
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY	KEN	N6KN
AUGUST	GILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

2016 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	MOE	KI6JNU
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE May 18, 2016, 7:30PM, CITY OF SONOMA EOC, SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT, 175 1ST ST WEST, SONOMA CA 95476

SEE YOU THERE.

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2016

Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**